AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

In an embodiment, one of the components may include a portion of the ceramic wall forming part of the vacuum envelope. The other component may be part of a drift tube, such as the mounting plate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ~~FIGURES~~ DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 18 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the specification, and may not be described in detail in the different drawing figures.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

Figures 1 and 1a illustrate part of a conventional electron beam tube, indicated generally in Figure 1 by the reference numeral 1, the tube having a longitudinal axis 2. The part illustrated in these Figures generally comprises the RF interaction region for the tube incorporating a drift tube assembly. Only one side of the tube is shown in detail in Figure 1a, the components illustrated being approximately symmetrical about the longitudinal axis.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 30 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

A tube constructed in accordance with the invention is illustrated in Figures 2 and 2a, and is indicated generally by the reference numeral 17 (see Figure 2). This tube also comprises a cylindrical wall 5, attached to the mounting plate 3 of a drift tube assembly via the intermediary

of a balance ring and flares 7, 15 as shown in Figure 2a.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

However, in accordance with the invention, the tube 17 further comprises means, such as member 18 (see Figure 2a), arranged to allow small radial movement of the balance ring with respect to the mounting plate, in order to alleviate thermal stresses on the tube.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

In this arrangement, the member 18 is annular and is substantially coaxial with the cylindrical wall 5. The member is interposed between a balance ring 19 (see Figure 2a) and the mounting plate 3. The member 18 is located in the recess 13 of the mounting plate and is held in location by atmospheric forces acting upon the tube when the interior has been evacuated to produce a vacuum, as shown in Figure 2a.